

# Okauchee Lake Management District

JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

## TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC TOWN HALL

1. Call to Order

T.Godar called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

2. Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to local newspapers, posted at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall, two posting boards, and on the OLMD Website.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call of Commissioners

**Present:** Tom Godar, Dee Schriver, Brian Sichi, Bruce Mueller, John Foley

**Absent:** N/A

**Also Present:** Pat Furno **Accountant for the District;** Brady Mullikin, **Lake Operations Manager;** Arnold Groehler, Linda Goehre, **Website Designer,** Stefanie Anderson **OLMD Secretary**

5. Correspondence

- a. D. Schriver received correspondence from a riparian owner asking when the DNR will be treating Okauchee Lake.
- b. T. Godar received correspondence regarding if we have been issued a, “Slow No Wake” order. We have not been mandated to do so as of yet.

6. Comments from the Floor

Mike Russo, W347N6658 Road J, Oconomowoc WI 53066, asked if we had ever thought of putting a No Wake buoy in Whittaker Bay. B. Mullikin replied that the Town of Oconomowoc puts in and takes out the buoys. If one is displaced we will track it down, but we can not choose to put out additional buoys. Mike also inquired on the number of geese on his property this year. D. Schriver replied that we were not able to conduct a goose round up this year due to the information that was collected and the time frame that it needs to be conducted. Next year we will make another attempt.

7. Comments from Committee Members

N/A

8. Discuss & Act on Report of Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following for ending June 30th, 2024:

- a. Total Revenues: \$393,036.96
- b. Total Expenditures: \$147,778.78

This leaves a budgeted balance of: \$245,258.15

P. Furno stated that the DNR raised our fees by \$2,000 to get a spraying permit for the 2024 season.

**B. Sichi moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. J. Foley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Approved Checks & Vouchers

**B. Sichi moved to approve payments submitted from June 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 through July 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 for approval by the Treasurer. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (06-17-24)

**B. Mueller moved to approve the minutes from the (06-17-24) meeting. B. Sichi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

11. Discuss & Act on OLMD Logo

**B. Sichi moved to implement the new logo design. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

12. Discuss & Act on OLMD Boundaries Regarding Garvin Lake

T. Godar has not yet attempted to draft a meeting to contact the Garvin Lake residents. B. Sichi is going to pull the addresses of interest on Garvin Lake. He stated that we will also need to determine whom in each household will have a vote.

13. Aquatic Plant Management Report Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager

- a. Brady stated that the operations have been very difficult with the continuous wet weather. The crew has had to store truck loads overnight as well as ask Pewaukee Lake to lend property for us to dump 2 truckloads. We are not able to get in and out of the farm fields to dump without getting stuck when the ground is too wet.

With the areas of farmland decreasing and the need to dispose of 200-300 truck loads each season, it has become apparent that we need to find some land to operate on for future seasons. Ideally, there would be a space with a concrete pad for when fields are not accessible. T. Godar suggested that we need to search for a long term rental and put together an RFP to allow people to bid. This is something that can be posted on the website as well. B. Mueller asked how much land would be needed and that he will look into options. Brady suggested around 20 acres and as close to the lake as possible. A concrete pad or gravel on site will be crucial.

- b. Greg Hurt, W347N6044 Road I, Oconomowoc WI 53066. Suggested that we try to cut down on the amount of mass that we produce. We will then cut down on the amount of mass that we have to move. He inquired if we can reduce or re-work our operations to create less mass. Brady agreed that we should be harvesting less. Since he has been in charge of operations has re-modeled the way things are done and adapted to changing needs. The crew has not dropped a cutter in almost 2 weeks. We did still pull out 15 truck loads of Eel grass from the surface. This usually starts around August 1<sup>st</sup> and has started a month early this season. The storms have caused the weeds to uproot much earlier than usual. In addition, if we do not cut pathways where the boats travel, then the boats will chop it up regardless. We will continue with our tradition of surface Fridays and focus on picking up surface weeds as much as possible.
- c. B. Sichi added that we should include this in our strategic plan and state what our purpose is when it comes to harvesting.
- d. D. Schriver agreed that the Eel Grass is uprooting almost 30 days earlier this season. That mixed with the increase in holiday boating traffic created for an unusual amount of weeds.
- e. Brady shared that the C2 and C3 Kubota engine issue was fixed. The fuel tanks in the harvesters were rusting and this was clogging up the filters. This has now been taken care of.

14. Discuss & Act on Development of 5 Year Aquatic Plant Management Plan

- a. T. Godar asked what everyone would like to see in a 5 year plan, and what are the limits of our authority.
- b. D. Schriver stated that we should add to our educational efforts, and keep our relationship with the DNR going as we work with them closely to combat invasive species.
- c. B. Mueller suggested that we should consider what kind of items the people would like to see.

d. J. Foley added that we need to include issues on safety, navigation, and continue our relationship with the DNR as well as develop relationships with other management districts.

e. T. Godar stated that a 5 year plan can get extended to 6 or 7 years. It should be broad enough to be useful. We need to determine what issues of importance we have authority over. This will need to be added to next month's agenda and we will have an opportunity to apply for grants. We need to reach out to surrounding lakes and collaborate with other management districts as well.

f. B. Mullikin suggested a contact that we can reach out too that assists in putting together 5 year plans if needed.

15. Discuss & Act on Creating a Strategic Plan

a. T. Godar suggested that we need to gather more information on where chemicals should be used, and revise our efforts to include Garvin Lake.

b. B. Sichi stated that we have a county that outlines some of these issues. We need to link our plan to the guidelines that are already set. Strategic plans are best when it is not something that you create. They lay ground work for the things that we "do" and the things that we "do not" do. This year's grant information has not yet been released but he is checking daily.

16. Discuss & Act on Website

a. The annual meeting date will be posted to the website as well as the agenda.

b. A post will be made inquiring if anyone has any contacts for land that could be used for future OLMD efforts.

c. B. Sichi suggested that we put more information on the website as needed, as it proves to be effective and we have seen more recent traffic to the website.

17. Discuss & Act on Digital Repository for OLMD Records

a. D. Schriver stated that she has given B. Sichi some documents previously and a flash drive of records. We can dispose of it after 5 years. D. Schriver will also be making a new flash drive of everything that she has on file.

18. Arnold Groehler Animal

a. It has been another successful season on Okauchee Lake in keeping the muskrat numbers low. The muskrat population is directly correlated to their food base. He is already seeing an uptick in number on surrounding lakes and predicts that there will be a healthy number of muskrat sightings in the future. He stated there has been one beaver sighting on Upper Oconomowoc Lake

b. Arnold presented D. Schriver with a handmade trapper basket and thanked her for her service and dedication to the OLMD.

19. Future Agenda Items

- a. Discuss & Act on Creating a Strategic Plan
- b. Discuss & Act on OLMD Boundaries regarding Garvin Lake
- c. Discuss & Act on Development of 5 year Aquatic Plant Management Plan
- d. Discuss & Act on the Budget Workshop & Annual Meeting

20. Set Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is August 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

The annual meeting is August 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

21. Adjournment

**B. Sichi moved to adjourn the July 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. D.Schriver seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.**